FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   CONTACT:
June 3, 2002

Napa Valley's Second Annual Computer & Electronics Recycling Event

When: **Friday, June 7th & Saturday, June 8th, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**
Where: **Napa Valley College (Napa Campus) South Parking Lot**

The City and County of Napa have joined forces to help local residents and businesses recycle old computer and electronic equipment through a two-day special collection event to be held on June 7-8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Napa Valley College (Napa Campus). A wide variety of working and non-working electronic equipment will be accepted <u>free of charge</u> including: PCs and laptops, computer monitors, printers and other peripherals, televisions, telephones and fax machines, and consumer electronics such as radios/stereos/VCRs. The collection event is limited to residential and commercial customers in Napa County serviced by Napa Garbage Service, Napa Valley Disposal, American Canyon Disposal, and Upper Valley Disposal Service.

The term "e-waste" refers to the wide range of electronic waste from more traditional consumers electronics (such as TV's, VCR's and stereos) to computers and computer peripherals (including printers, keyboards, scanners, etc.) and to newer technology products such as cellular phones, digital cameras, and personal digital assistants. Currently, it is estimated that about 50% of US households own a computer and that 315 million computers will become obsolete in the United States by the year 2004. This is a result of rapid advancements in technology and greater consumer use of computer products. Some e-waste also contains hazardous materials that may harm the environment if disposed of improperly. Last year, a ruling by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) stated that products containing cathode ray tubes (CRTs), namely computer monitors and televisions, are considered hazardous waste. Each CRT is estimated to contain five to eight pounds of lead and are currently banned from California landfills. Currently, legislation (SB 1523 - Sher) is being considered to place a $30 surcharge on every new CRT sold in California to help pay for the cost of proper disposal and recycling.

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"We are excited to take a leadership role in recycling electronic waste," stated Ed Henderson, Mayor of the City of Napa. "We are employing a community-based approach to solve a 21st century problem of increasing amounts of electronic products entering the waste stream."

Last year's e-waste collection event in Napa reaped a record harvest of computers and other electronic scrap. Local residents and businesses dropped-off over 140,000 pounds of old computer and electronic equipment, including working and non-working PCs and laptops, computer monitors, printers and other peripherals, televisions, telephones and fax machines, and consumer electronics such as radios/stereos/VCRs. Over 1,000 vehicles unloaded material over the course of the free two-day collection event.

"We had a tremendous response from the community, almost an overwhelming response," remarked Kevin Miller, Waste Reduction and Recycling Coordinator for the City of Napa. "The two-day event provided an excellent opportunity for both residents and businesses to participate." At the time, the 140,000 pounds collected stood as a record for such events in Northern California and was comparable to the City of San Diego's first collection event that garnered over 72 tons of material. San Diego's next collection event received over 165 tons of materials, so Napa has taken note and event organizers are gearing up for an even larger turnout this year.

Napa Garbage Service (NGS) will again partner with Computer Recycling Center (CRC) to provide the collection and recycling services for the two-day event. Working or reusable items will be handled by CRC, California's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to refurbishing and donating working equipment to schools, community organizations and others in need. Last year, CRC recovered 13,215 pounds of materials for reuse, which represented nearly 10% of the total material dropped-off at the event. Additional information on CRC can be accessed through their web site: www.crc.org

NGS will handle the "end of life" or non-working items in partnership with a sister company, Waste Management Recycle America's Asset Recovery Group (ARG). ARG will provide technical assistance to help design the event and will process the materials at its Phoenix, Arizona recycling plant. The Napa Valley Personal Computer Users Group provided 17 volunteers at last year's event and will again be at this year's event to assist Napa residents and businesses. ###

Computer equipment awaits sorting at Napa County's 2001 collection event.

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